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ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO: C01104/70016

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kevin J. Dowling, Frederick M. Morgan, Ihor A. Lys, Michael K. Blackwell,
Alfred Ducharme, Ralph Osterhout, Colin Piepgras, George G. Mueller, and Dawn Geary
Serial No: 09/805,590
Filed: March 13, 2001
For: LIGHT-EMITTING DIODE BASED PRODUCTS
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 2821

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification

Please substitute the indicated paragraph with the rewritten paragraph below. A version of the paragraph with all changes made by the current amendment shown using bolded bracketing and underlining is attached hereto, and is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This application claims the benefit of, and incorporates by reference, the entire disclosure of the following pending United States provisional patent applications:

U.S. Provisional Patent App. No. 60/199,333, filed April 24, 2000; and

U.S. Provisional Patent App. No. 60/211,417, filed June 14, 2000.--